

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 08/898,853

3. The golf ball of claim 1 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.

4. The golf ball of claim 1 wherein said core consists of an inner sphere and a layer surrounding the inner sphere, said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material to a hardness of 20 to 55 degrees on Shore D, said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.

5. (Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising; a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer, said core having a diameter of 35 to 41 mm, and said surrounding layer having a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D.

6. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.

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7. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.

8. The golf ball of claim 5 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material.

9. (Amended) A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising; a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere formed of a rubber material based on polybutadiene and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and formed mainly of a thermoplastic resin or rubber base material, and a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, and said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer, and said inner sphere having a lower hardness than said surrounding layer.

10. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.

11. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.

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12. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material, said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add the following new claims

--13. A solid golf ball comprising a solid core having a three-layered structure composed of an inner layer, an intermediate layer formed outside said inner layer, and an outer layer formed outside said intermediate layer, and a cover for coating said solid core, wherein:

said inner layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer;

C3 said intermediate layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness of 45 to 65; and

said outer layer is designed to have a Shore D hardness which is lower than that of said intermediate layer.

D 14. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said inner layer has a Shore D hardness of ~~15~~²⁰ to 40. Not 50 (p 6, L31 says 20-55)

D 15. The solid golf ball according to claim 13, wherein said inner layer has a diameter of ~~18.0~~^{20.0} to 29.0 mm, said intermediate layer and said inner layer have a

p. 7 says 20-39